

MINUTES
Kentucky Interagency Council on Homelessness
Steering Committee
January 19, 2010

The Steering Committee of the Kentucky Interagency Council on Homelessness (KICH) was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2010, 10:30 a.m., Eastern time, 1231 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky.

Executive Committee Members Present:

Penny Young, Executive Director, Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky

Steering Committee Members Present:

Tom Beatty, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Susan Best-McWain, Kentucky Disability Determination Services
D.W. Bouchard, Executive Director, Hazard-Perry County Community Ministries
Jason Dunn, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Lynn Flynn, Advocacy Liaison, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Marlene Gordon, Coalition for the Homeless
Joe Hamilton, Jr., Louisville Metro Government
Wendy Hayden, Department of Corrections
Lisa Howard, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet
Mike Hurysz, Northern Kentucky Housing & Homeless Coalition, Inc.
Davey King, Kentucky Housing Corporation
Karen King-Jones, Department of Juvenile Justice
Mary Marshall, Homeless Education, Education Cabinet
Patrick McKiernan, Department of Veterans Affairs
Tina Messer, Administrative Office of the Courts
Pat Puckett for Eric Perez, Transportation Cabinet
Mary O'Doherty, Kentucky Domestic Violence Association
George W. Scott, Office of Employment and Training
Laura Sudduth for Anne Chaney, Department for Local Government
Steve Thomas, HUD CPD Representative
Jennifer Weeber, Hazard-Perry County Community Ministries

Steering Committee Members Absent:

Joanie Abramson, Kentucky Parole Board
Barbara Banaszynski, Volunteers of America of Kentucky
Shelly Benge, Kentucky River Foothills Community Action Partnership
David Christiansen, Central Kentucky Housing and Homeless Initiative
Michael Denney, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Walter Derricks, Community Representative
Heath Dolen, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Andy Patterson, Phoenix Health Center
Anthony Wright, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government
Linda Young, Northern Kentucky Homeless & Housing Coalition, c/o Welcome House

KHC Staff Present:

Melissa Benton, Kentucky Housing Corporation
Paula Johnson, Kentucky Housing Corporation
Rosemary Lockett, Kentucky Housing Corporation
Katie Meyer, Kentucky Housing Corporation
Amanda Palmer, Kentucky Housing Corporation
Charla Jackson Peter, Kentucky Housing Corporation
Amy Smith, Kentucky Housing Corporation
Brenda Weaver, Kentucky Housing Corporation

Brenda Weaver welcomed the Steering Committee members and thanked those attending as a representative. Ms. Weaver welcomed George Scott of the Office of Employment and Training as a new member to the committee and asked that each person introduce themselves.

Ms. Weaver announced that Gerri Roll has resigned as chair of the Steering Committee/co-chair of the Executive Committee and that Jason Dunn has accepted the position. Ms. Roll has been a big part of this group and will certainly be missed. A recommendation for Mr. Dunn as chair of the Steering Committee/co-chair of the Executive Committee has been made to Senator Gerald Neal. Mr. Dunn will be officially installed as the chair of the Steering Committee/co-chair of the Executive Committee at the May Executive Committee meeting. Mr. Dunn will be serving as interim chair.

Ms. Weaver then turned the meeting over to Melissa Benton and Amy Smith regarding the Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Work Plan that was developed from the KICH Retreat in November. These items have been prioritized for each subcommittee to work on for the year.

Ms. Smith stated that copies are on the table and that the Steering Committee members are to review the format of this work plan. She also noted that an update column had been added to help track the progress of the action item. She called for a motion to use the format.

Mike Hurysz made a motion to approve the format, content, and know that this is a working document for KICH. Marlene Gordon seconded the motion and it was approved.

Mr. Dunn stated the next item on the agenda is an update on the Kentucky Asset Success Initiative by Mary O'Doherty.

Ms. O'Doherty thanked the Steering Committee and acknowledged Jennifer Weeber and Hazard-Perry County Community Ministries as being an important partner in eastern Kentucky. Mr. Dunn has also provided assistance by connecting the Steering Committee to additional partners.

Ms. O'Doherty stated that domestic violence is a big problem. When a household's income is reduced, there is more likely to be an act of domestic violence and the victim's credit is damaged by their abuser or the situation has caused the victim to suffer economically. The victims may also have been a victim of identity theft, often by the perpetrator. This is why the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association (KDVA) is very interested and focused on the asset initiative. Another reason is that economic dependency is the strongest predictor of a survivor's decision to remain or leave and return to the abusive relationship. Clearly if the victim's assets can be helped, they can become independent and less likely to return to the abusive relationship.

Ms. Benton asked if the Assets for Independence Program is only for domestic violence. Ms. O'Doherty replied no and that the act was created by the federal government in 1998. There are three grantees in Kentucky with KDVA being the largest.

See attached PowerPoint presentation on the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association Economic Justice Project.

Wendy Haydon asked if the program would restrict parolees. Ms. Benton stated the Reentry Initiative and the Asset Initiative would help parolees with reentry into the community. Ms. O'Doherty stated there are no restrictions on Individual Development Accounts and will discuss with Ms. Haydon later.

Mr. Dunn noted the next agenda item is Prevention Subcommittee Updates and Marlene Gordon will provide an update on Senate Bill 49 Identification Cards. Ms. Gordon stated that they were taking a different approach this year by starting in the Senate and then moving to the House. Senator Neal is the sponsor of the bill and one of the co-sponsors is Denise Harper Angel. KICH is trying to make this a bipartisan bill. There are no objections from the courts as long the \$2.00 fee is paid for Kentucky residents who have had a picture ID in the past and they can give the shelter's address to obtain the ID. This allows the person to start the process of being self-sufficient.

Ms. Gordon suggested that everyone in favor of the legislation call their senators and ask them to support Senate Bill 49. She stated that at the HHCK Legislative Session, she was able to speak to several senators and they are willing to move forward on Bill 49 as long as the court systems are not opposed.

Tom Beatty and Ms. Gordon have worked diligently and have in place a Homeless Pilot Prevention Program – it is not just about reentry – it is about reentry and being homeless. Now in the shelters, there are mentally ill homeless felons. The shelters, being the poorest of the poor, are trying to lead these individuals into self-sufficiency.

Mr. Beatty and Ms. Gordon have been working with Ms. Haydon of the Department of Corrections (DOC) on the ReEntry Program. This new Homeless Pilot Prevention Program has a different definition than Ms. Haydon's ReEntry Program. Ms. Gordon stated they have had really positive meetings with the Department of Corrections. She then turned the presentation over to Mr. Beatty. He stated that they have been meeting and recently presented the Homeless Pilot Prevention Program to the ReEntry Task Force. They are talking about how they can work together because they are serving the same individuals, whether they are coming from the prison facilities or the shelters. The challenge is how to make this program work with additional funding or no funding and how to be creative with the funding available.

Ms. Haydon stated that her understanding of the grant when talking to Brigid Adams is that the funds were out of the state's General Fund and a grant cannot be added on to that to cover the cost. They were considering looking at the Second Chance Act and putting funds toward the prevention project. Since these are state funds, they are considering expanding the Jefferson County program. Ms. Haydon stated that a request needs to be made to the General Assembly for more funds for this project and present to the task force. Mr. Beatty said that both DOC and the Health and Family Services Cabinet are in support of this program.

Ms. Benton clarified that at the September Executive Committee meeting a recommendation was made for a presentation to be made to the Governor's ReEntry Task Force which the DOC administers. Mr. Beatty, Ms. Benton, and Ms. Gordon made an overall presentation to the Steering Committee Task Force. Ms. Haydon stated that this is an overlapping partnership that needs to be

addressed. The task force, after hearing the presentation, understood that this is an overlapping partnership and needs to be expanded to the rest of the state in order to realize the savings.

Ms. Gordon then stated that another piece is the Continuum of Care application which asks, "Do you have a Reentry Program?" The Coalition for the Homeless has been advised to say yes; however, it is not a statewide program. She said she had a call into Representative Yarmouth regarding the Second Chance Act. Could this Second Chance Act include foster kids, mentally ill, and Department of Corrections to help reduce recidivism to work with this Homeless Pilot Prevention Program?

Penny Young asked Ms. Gordon which committee Senate Bill 49 will go through. Ms. Gordon replied that it would proceed through the Transportation Committee. Ms. Benton stated that Todd Shipp, attorney in Transportation, understands the importance and the law. Mr. McKiernan stated that the Department of Veterans Affairs is on board with this project.

Mr. Dunn asked Ms. Haydon for an update on other DOC legislation. She stated that the circuit court clerks will not support the legislation if the parolees do not have birth certificates. Ms. Haydon stated we can get a birth certificate for some parolees before they are released. The problem is obtaining birth certificates from foreign military bases and the funds. DOC will pay for the indigent ones before they leave the criminal system.

Ms. Howard stated that she hoped that in the future there might be a grant and part of that is driven by Homeland Security and the Patriot Act by knowing who the person is. Ms. Adams is looking for and will find a grant that will help with this situation. Ms. Haydon said the cost of the driver's license is the same as what everyone else pays. Ms. Haydon said they will provide an ID and a birth certificate with Corrections paperwork. Ms. Howard said that it also states the necessity for proof of a Social Security number.

Mr. Dunn asked Penny Young of the Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky (HHCK) for a legislative update. HHCK is an advocacy agency and has 75 members across the state. Their process is to identify legislative issues that they will support through a subcommittee and then to their Board of Directors. While there are many issues that affect members of this room, there are four top bills HHCK is going to support: Payday Lending, ID Cards, and the Earned Income Tax Credit bill filed by Representative Jim Wayne which is called Taxation and Emergency Fund. There are elements of the bill that increase taxes in order to make this work in Kentucky. The fourth bill is the Energy Bill which is being drafted through the Kentucky Sustainable Energy Alliance (KYSEA). One element of this bill is to establish an Energy Trust Fund which means that every person who pays a utility bill will be charged a .001 cents to establish this fund to be used to help individuals do energy saving rehabilitation to their home.

Ms. Young said HHCK hosted a legislative luncheon and wanted to thank many in this room for supporting HHCK and the legislation they are supporting. There were about 70 members that signed in. Overall, there was no opposition to the four items and more cosponsors signed on. There was only one discouraging moment when Jeff Greer, chair the Banking and Insurance Subcommittee said he would not let the Payday Lending bill get through the committee because those groups were requested to obtain data. Ms. O'Doherty stated that data collection would begin July 2010. She talked to Amy Shear and stated that they were trying to take the Payday Lending bill through the Licensing and Occupation Committee.

Ms. Young asked that members watch for these bills and the Energy bill because it is important and has a direct impact on low-income families. Many families become homeless not just because they cannot pay their mortgage but also because they cannot pay their utility bills.

Mr. Dunn asked Ms. Young to keep members updated on the bills.

Ms. O'Doherty said KDVA's top legislative priority is House Bill 30 that would enable individuals in dating relationships to receive a protective order. Ms. Gordon stated they are in the process of having Senate Bill 49 included in the Governor's Legislative Packet.

Ms. Weaver said there is a formal process and procedures on how KHC deals with and monitors legislative issues. It is reviewed by all departments that deal with the issues, by the Executive Management Team, followed by the development of a professional statement and KHC's position on the legislation. KHC is charged with reviewing housing-related legislation from a statewide perspective and must be very careful to not take the lead in advocating for legislation. KHC receives federal funds and cannot lobby nor can state agencies.

KHC is actively engaged but not the lead on House Bill 166, which is regulating debt adjusters regarding foreclosure. Companies that were formerly predatory lenders are requesting payment for their services. KHC administers the Homeownership Protection Center, which is the same thing and is a free service to the homeowners. KHC is working with the Attorney General's Office and the Office of Financial Institutions to help provide input on regulation.

Mr. Dunn asked Rosemary Luckett for the federal program update on the Continuum of Care and KY HEARTH programs. Ms. Luckett stated that the Continuum of Care is a blanket for homeless programs and KHC recently received a renewal program that was awarded funding. This lists all the programs statewide of the renewal process. There are two new projects in the Balance of State, one in Lexington, and one in Louisville which HUD will announce shortly. All requests were funded and federal dollars coming in Kentucky from the McKinney Vento Act have been reauthorized under the HEARTH Act.

The second is the KY HEARTH and is the Balance of State name that was funded from the stimulus funding in early 2009. There are other programs operating independently in Covington, Lexington, and Louisville. KHC does have two projects serving Lexington and one in Louisville.

The next hand out is the second quarterly report to HUD on the KY HEARTH program. At the end of December, KHC had served 3,700 clients which is pretty significant. The other pieces include Homelessness Prevention which is 82 percent. Homeless Assistance is 73 percent and showing very good results, considering HUD's benchmark is 70 percent. This is higher than HUD's 70 percent and exceeds their benchmark of individuals obtaining permanent housing.

D. W. Bouchard stated that the service providers appreciate KHC's administering the KY HEARTH funds.

Steve Thomas of HUD wanted to say that the funds were disbursed quickly and the program changes often. The President's priorities and all were put in binders but the important thing is that the reports are accurate and they are read daily by HUD and the White House. The programs are working and anyone can review other state's reports and see across the nation how well it is going to the federal government.

The 2009 renewal applications have been announced and on January 29, 2010, it will be announced how to distribute the CoC contracts in electronic format by using esnaps.

Mr. Thomas stated that the Point-In-Time Count will be Thursday, January 28, 2010, and there will be a new way to report this information. Participants should go to the Homeless Management Information System between April 1-30, 2010 to review and understand the mechanics before putting data into the system.

Ms. Benton wanted to remind the members that at the KICH Retreat a short list of topics was provided to everyone. This will be an opportunity to learn more about other agencies and their initiatives. On the list is Mr. McKiernan of Veterans Affairs and KICH is interested in learning more about ReEntry. Ms. Benton will be in contact to make arrangements for those presentations.

Governor Steve Beshear approved and released the 2009 *Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness Update* in December, which is now available on-line. The *Ten-Year Plan Update* and the work plan will be KICH's guide throughout 2010.

Ms. Benton announced that KICH is now on Facebook. There is information on the upcoming Point-In-Time Count for anyone who would like to volunteer.

The subcommittees will meet the following dates in February.

Services – February 9, 2010
Housing – February 10, 2010
Prevention – February 9, 2010
Data – February 16, 2010
Public Will – February 16, 2010

Conference calling is available for those who cannot participate in person.

Ms. Gordon announced her retirement celebration on April 11 at the Louisville Hotel and invited everyone. Ms. Gordon stated that Natalie Hutcheson Harris will begin as executive director of the Coalition for the Homeless April 1, 2010.

Mr. Dunn thanked the group and stated that it is a real honor to serve as chair.

There being no further business before the KICH Steering Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully,

Paula R. Johnson

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